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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Wednesday February 17, 2010, Marion and I went to Vancouver for a whirlwind tour to the Olympics. Due to all the press hype about the shortage of hotel space in Vancouver we went for a one day whirl wind tour. We got up at 4:30 in the morning and caught a flight to Vancouver at 7:00 AM. We arrived in Vancouver, stopped at the Coca Cola pin trading booth at the Airport, participated in the put a pin take a pin program and received a coca cola pin. We then took the commuter train to the curling center, picked up our tickets and stood in line for about an hour to clear security and then enjoyed the ladies curling where Canada won and then watched half of the men's match in the afternoon. We found the crowd at the ladies event were much more boisterous than the crowd at the men's event. As the Canadian men were not curling in the afternoon we only watched half the match and rushed downtown to see the downtown activities. Unfortunately we had not anticipated the two and one half hour wait at the Mint pavilion and the one and one half hour wait at the British Columbia pavilion, which were the only two locations we managed to reach. Because of the lines we did not see the inside of these pavilions. We were told by volunteers that similar line were at all pavilions. We therefore wandered around down town and saw many of the outside activities and did some pin trading with volunteers and other visitors. We tried the professional pin traders but found they were asking ridiculous prices so we concentrated on contacting anyone with pins on their jackets and asked to trade and had a lot of fun. After a half hour wait for the commuter train we went back to the airport and due to a delay in our plane departure time, did a bit more pin trading at the coca cola booth. We arrived home at midnight. We did not see any souvenir coins or woods but we did not get to any coin shops. If anyone knows of any souvenir wooden nickels prepared for the 2010 Olympics please let us know.

Membership renewals for 2009 have been coming in at a steady pace, however, there are still a few who have not yet renewed. This will be the last bulletin sent to members who have not paid their dues for 2009. Those members who are receiving the bulletin electronically, and have not paid for 2009, have received an email from me reminding them that this will be the last bulletin received. Those members who still receive their bulletins by ordinary mail will have a rubber stamp mark on their address labels. If you have not paid your dues please remit immediately to Al Munro, Box 2643, Station M, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 3C1. If you have queries re your membership status you can contact me by mail, by phone at 403-273-6133 or by email at wood5cents@shaw.ca. We will be sending out reminders in mid March to anyone who still has not sent in their dues.

Those who have paid will be receiving their receipts and membership cards in the following manner:

Those that I see personally on a regular basis will receive them from me. I will also be taking any receipts for Alberta members to the Calgary Coin show in early March.

Those who see Ross Kingdon on a regular basis will receive their cards and receipts from Ross in the near future.

Those who do not see Ross or myself on a regular basis and still receive a hard copy will have their receipts and cards mailed with a future bulletin.

Those who do not see Ross or myself on a regular basis and receive their bulletin electronically will have their receipts and cards mailed to them shortly.

Continued on page two

PAST PRESIDENTS:**Garry Braunwarth: 1975 - 1977****Victor Hall: 1977 - 1979 *****Don Robb: 1979 - 1981****Stanley Clute: 1981 - 1983****Neil Probert: 1983 - 1985****Norm Belsten: 1985 - 1991****Pat White: 1991 - 1995 *****Lou Vesh: 1995 - 2001****Earl Salterio: 2001 - 2003 *****Norm Belsten: 2003 - 2005****(* Deceased)*****FREE WOOD OF THE MONTH***

This month's free wood was made and donated by Lou Vesh. The write-up on the wood was in the September 2009 issue of Timber Talk page six. As we had committed to show other free woods the smile wood was held back till now. Lou has donated many woods to Timber Talk over the years and we thank you Lou.



Print is black but the S is red



Print is black with red ring

CAWMC OFFICERS**President: AL MUNRO****Vice-president: DAVE GILLESPIE****Secretary-Treasurer and Membership Chairman:****AL MUNRO****Past-President and Chairman of the Board of Governors: NORM BELSTEN****Elected Members of the Board of Governors:****BOB BROWN, RUSSELL BROWN, ROSS KINGDON, WAYNE GILLCASH, LOU VESH, JAMES WILLISTON.****APPOINTED OFFICERS****Editor: Norman Belsten****Distribution-Canada: Ross Kingdon****Distribution-United States: Richard Blaylock****Fund Raiser: Lou Vesh & Dave Gillespie****Auction coordinator: Al Munro****Dues: Al Munro****Membership dues in the Canadian Association Of Wooden Money Collectors are:****Canadian Residents: \$10.00 Canadian Funds****United States Residents: \$10.00 U.S. Funds****International Members Rate (outside of Canada****And the U.S.): \$20.00 Canadian Funds****Youth (16 years of age and under): \$5.00****Dues paid to Mr. Al Munro, Box 2643****Stn. 'M' Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 3C1*****Continued from page one President's message***

As hinted above the spring coin show circuit starts shortly. Edmonton's coin show is the first week of March and Calgary's show is the second week of March. The Calgary Numismatic Society has graciously allowed us to have a meeting and trading session at the show Saturday afternoon. If you are going to be in the area please attend and bring any duplicates you have. I will have some duplicates with me and will also have some of my more unique woods from my personal collection for viewing.

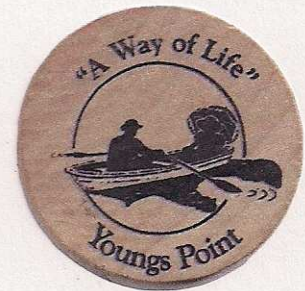
It is not too soon to start making reservation for the annual C.N.A. convention this July in St. John, N B. I encourage you to attend this outstanding show and to plan to attend our annual C.A.W.M.C. breakfast which will be held **Saturday** this year. The convention and annual breakfast meeting will be a great opportunity to meet fellow collectors and do some friendly trading. If you plan on issuing a "wood" for this convention please order them shortly to give the manufacturers sufficient time to produce your order for you.

Our annual meeting is an opportunity to honour members who have put forth extraordinary effort to support our hobby. If you would like to nominate someone as a potential recipient of an award please advise me at one of the contact points shown above.

Good luck in your collecting activities.

MY WOODEN NICKEL'S WORTH..... *by Lou Vesh*

Many so called "wooden nickels" are not actually wooden nickels, in the true sense of the word, because they have no specific value stamped on them. I myself have issued several woods of this type. Still, such woods are readily accepted, collected, and catalogued as wooden nickels. The wood shown at right is one such specimen.



I discovered this wood quite by accident when a non collector friend, who happened to have had it for some years, gave it to me. Apparently it's an old wood, still in use, for which I cannot find any listing.

Even though no value is stamped on it, this wood does have some "buying" power. It is not distributed freely, but rather given to customers of Lockside Trading Company, Youngs Point, Ontario, while they are waiting for some action or results that the staff is working on. The customer can go around the corner and redeem the token for a coffee, ice cream cone, or other light refreshment, at their food service outlet.

The Lockside Trading Company is a very interesting store, having a vast variety of merchandise, from furniture to hardware, with just about everything in between. Their location makes them conveniently accessible from both land and water. Youngs Point is located at the tip of Clear Lake, just north of Peterborough.



WOODEN MONEY PICTURE CATALOGUE UPDATE

Since I have been doing the colour version on the wooden money catalogue I have been getting scans of woods from several people and find that they are not listed, some are an existing wood issued in a different colour then the one listed while others were listed from information supplied to me and the information was wrong or missing. At this time I have over 250 pages complete with about 400 more to go. Many of these pages just need the scan of one wood to be complete, while others need several. With 8000 woods that means 16000 scans, 8000 write-ups, and over 625 pages, to lay out for the complete catalogue. Over the next few months I hope to complete many more pages. When complete it will be available on disk with a cost to be yet determined, and you can print just the pages you want or all if you want.

In the meantime I will be issuing a listing update at the Ontario Numismatic Convention in Kingston Ontario in April of all woods listed since the 2008 supplement #10. This supplement #11 will be on a CD with either the whole catalogue or just the #11 update for those who have the catalogue already. Cost will be \$35. for the catalogue and \$6. for the supplement, plus postage if required. I will not have any printed copies as I end up with a lot left over. For some people I can email either one to save on postage if you will not be at the ONA Convention.

Norm Belsten Life member C45

A bit of history
By Norm Belsten Life C45

A wooden nickel is wood token coin, which are usually issued by a merchant or bank as a promotion, sometimes redeemable for a specific item such as a drink. Wooden nickels were most commonly issued in the US in the 1930s, after the Great Depression. The first Canadian wood with a value on it was the 1937 Stratford Ontario set of three flats, 5¢, 10¢, and 25¢.

It was during this decade that some banks and chambers of commerce in the United States issued wooden nickels with expiration dates to mitigate difficulties faced by merchants in making change at times of instability.

Common views published on the internet concerning the origin of the wooden nickel are patently incomplete, often making it an innovation of this late date that arose in response to such banking difficulties. Commemorative nickels are then supposed to be an outgrowth of these legitimate wooden nickels. However, collectible wooden nickels have been mentioned in print since at least since the 1880 the Leroux Montreal Exposition Black Walnut wood

In more recent times wooden nickel trading has become more popular. Individuals can have their own personalized token made and then trade with others who also have had their own made. This is especially popular at Coin shows, Conventions and Geocaching. Some organizations use them as a fund raiser, selling them to make money, or just to advertize the organization.

The old adage, "Don't take any wooden nickels" is considered a lighthearted reminder to be cautious in one's dealings. This adage, too, precedes the use of wooden nickels as a replacement currency, suggesting that its origins lie not in the genuine monetary value of nickels but rather in their purely commemorative nature. However, such an interpretation should not be altogether ignored:

Today there are just under 8000 different Canadian woods listed with more being issued every day.

Although we mostly collect north American woods other countries have also issued them way before us. The Chinese issued Bamboo money and Europe issued Note Geld of the 1920s. Here are a few examples.



50 Heller from 1920 set of 10, 20, and 50 Heller



Bamboo wood
 from China note the hole so it could be put



VALDEZ MUSEUM COMPLIMENTARY WOODS

By David Phillips

When visiting Valdez in July of 2009, I was given a wooden token obviously given out by the Valdez Museum.

Upon my return home from my vacation, I e-mailed the Museum and inquired as to the why's & wherefore's of this token. I receive a very helpful reply from the Museum's Public Programs Director, Mr. Rich Dunkin, advising that this token was purchased by the Museum in 2004 and "was/is given to Museum volunteers, donors and staff as a Thank You for a job well done". 150 of these tokens were purchased and are redeemable at a local coffee house called "A Rouge Garden". The Museum redeems these woods from time to time from the coffee house (@ \$3.50) and reuses them. This Thank You program is still in effect at present.



During my e-mail conversations with Rich Dunkin, he noted that there had been an earlier version of this complimentary wood, issued initially by the Museum in the late 1990's, and redeemable at a different coffee house, The Howling Wolf Coffee Joint.



Unfortunately, the number produced is not known. Again, this wood was redeemed by the Museum from time to time (@ \$2.50 - \$3), and reused. The Howling Wolf Coffee Joint went out of business during 2002, and I am not sure what happened re Thank You woods between 2002 and 2004....

Rich did some real "digging" on my behalf and found me one of these earlier woods. My sincere Thanks to Rich for both the information and for finding me this earlier wood. Very much appreciated.

Submitted by David "Rusty" Phillips

CALGARY NUMISMATIC SOCIETY WOODS 2001 TO 2008



The Calgary Numismatic Society has issued a commemorative wooden token every year that it has hosted a coin show since the early 1970's. The obverse of the woods shows the details of the annual coins shows, with the dates and the location of the shows. From 2001 to 2008 the reverse design of the woods had a common theme, coin designs of Canadian coins.



This series began in 2001 with a wood showing the design of the 1951 Canadian five cent piece. This was the fiftieth anniversary of the coin that commemorated the two hundredth anniversary of the isolation of the element nickel.



This was followed by the design of the Canadian ten cent piece in 2002, the twenty-five cent piece in 2003 and the fifty cent piece in 2004. In 2005 a wood showing a loon, similar to the one dollar coin was used. Then in 2006, the design of the old voyageur dollar coin was used. Each year the value of the coin shown on the wood increased, so in 2007, the design of the two dollar coin with the polar bear was used.



The final wood in the series had the design of the only denomination coin not yet used, the Canadian one cent coin. But the current maple leaf coin was not used. The 2008 wood featured an old Canadian large cent coin. Large cents were used in Canada from 1876 to 1920.



This design was chosen to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Royal Canadian Mint in 2008. So our series of woods featured at least one design of every denomination of Canadian coins.



All of these Calgary Numismatic Society's woods were made by Norm Belsten of Newmarket, Ontario. He made 500 woods each year. I would like to thank Norm and the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors for using the pictures of the Calgary woods from their monthly newsletter.

